

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 /128 W

----- 044003

R 211206Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 993

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DA NANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: REQPORT ON ALLEGED "CHAIR THROWING CHAOS" AT JOINT SESSION
OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

REF: SAIGON 861

1. DEPT MAY HAVE NOTED AP STORY BY ROBINSON DATED SAIGON
SATURDAY, JAN. 19, CONCERNING THE JOINT SESSION OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY THAT DAY DURING WHICH THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS WERE
ADOPTED. THE AP STORY STATES "THE SESSION ERUPTED INTO CHAIR
THROWING CHAOS" AFTER THE AMENDMENTS WERE ADOPTED. THIS IS
ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF DISTORTED REPORTING ON VIETNAMESE EVENTS
BY THE WESTERN PRESS.

2. EMBOFF WAS PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE SESSION AND REMAINED
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IN SENATE CHAMBER UNTIL EXIT BY ALL PARTICIPANTS. NO CHAIRS

WERE THROWN AT ANY TIME BY ANYONE. ONE PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER FELL FROM HIS CHAIR AS IT BUCKLED UNDER HIS WEIGHT. PERHAPS THIS EVENT CAUGHT THE AP REPORTER'S EYE. AFTER THE VOTE TO PASS THE THREE AMENDMENTS, VARIOUS OPPOSITION LEGISLATORS, NOTABLY INCLUDING SEN TRUONG TIEN DAT, HAMMERED THE HORSESHOE-SHAPED DESK IN THE SENATE WITH THEIR ASHTRAYS. SOME NOT SEATED AT THE DESK ROCKED IN THEIR CHAIRS, BANGING THE LEGS OF THEIR CHAIRS AGAINST THE FLOOR. THERE WERE SHOUTED PROTESTS. SEN DAT THEN THREW TWO ASHTRAYS AND A MICROPHONE TO THE FLOOR IN FRONT OF HIS DESK. AS THE SESSION DREW TO A CLOSE, THE OPPOSITON CONTINUED WITH SEVERAL OUTBREAKS OF SHOUTING, ASHTRAY BANGING, AND CHAIR ROCKING. NONE OF THESE ACTIVITIES WAS OF SUCH A NATURE AS TO IMPEDE THE PROGRESS OF THE MEETING, WHICH ADJOURNED

IN REASONABLY GOOD ORDER SHORTLY AFTER THE LAST VOTE.

3. THE POST SESSION DEMONSTRATIVE ACTS (HAIR CUTTINGS, MARCH THROUGH THE STREETS) WERE REPORTED REFTTEL.

MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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